



*Serving our community for over 35 years!*  
Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run  
**COMMUNITY**

Volume 36 – No. 2 PUBLISHED BY THE DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER WITH MEMBER SUPPORT

Summer 2025

## The Smiths Will Lead the Parade

By Laura Glassco

Eric and Julianne Smith will be our Grand Marshals for this year's July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade!

Eric, a Swedish descendant from La Mesa, California and Julianne, a Palo Alto native with German heritage, met while both were attending Stanford University. Eric graduated and continued his medical studies to become an anesthesiologist and Julianne graduated with a degree in nursing. They were married July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1963 at the Stanford University Chapel. Eric served in the Navy both stateside and in Taiwan. Julianne taught school and was a school nurse for a number of schools, including Alta Dutch Flat School.



Growing up, Eric had visited Dutch Flat many times as his uncle had property here. In 1968, the Smith's began coming to their vacation home in Dutch Flat. In 1976, they made Dutch Flat their permanent residence. The Smith's welcomed three children to their family; Hilary, Brendan and Evan, and have two grandchildren added to their clan.

The Smiths have been very active in the community. They are founding members



Photo by Laura Glassco  
**Eric and Julianne Smith, with Cajun, at their Dutch Flat home**

of the Golden Drift Historical Society and started the Community Garden on the corner of Sacramento and Main Streets, which they maintained for many years. Eric and Julianne love to travel and have been to Taiwan, China and Europe to visit their foreign exchange students. Julianne is an accomplished ceramicist and has her own business with a very appropriate name of Diggins Dirtworks.

The Smith's dog, Cajun, is a border collie rescue who was named for his spicy color. He is a steadfast, loyal companion. If you see Julianne walking to or from the post office, you'll also see Cajun by her side.

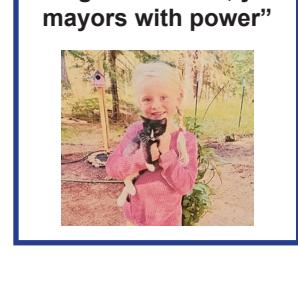
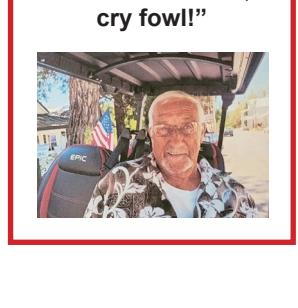
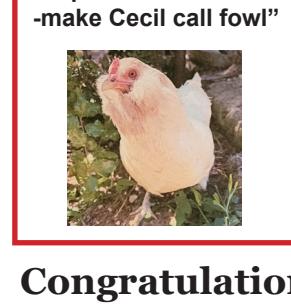
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## 2025 Mayor's Race

By Laura Glassco



### Congratulations!

Each of these candidates are officially running for Mayor of Dutch Flat. The ballot box will be at The Trading Post starting Friday, June 20th. Voting will close on July 3rd at 6pm. All will be notified of the election outcome on July 3rd. A Mayor & Town Council Float will be in the parade. The mayors-elect and all candidates are encouraged to ride in the float.

We wish each of you the best of luck. Have fun!



**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE TRADING POST**



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Views expressed in letters, guest opinion pieces and other contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the Dutch Flat Community Center, or its Board.

This newspaper is published quarterly and distributed to Dutch Flat Community Center members and to residents of the Center's service area from Gold Run to Emigrant Gap in Placer County, California.

We welcome contributions from readers. Submission deadline for the next issue:

**September 10, 2025.**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**The Attic:** Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm.

**Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting:** 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Laura Glassco, 916-778-8308.

**Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck:** 3rd Thursdays. 6:00 pm. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share. July and August at the Dutch Flat Pool.

**Dutch Flat Seventh Day Adventist:** Light meal, Wednesday, 5:30 pm, Community Worship Service, Wednesday, 6:00 pm and Saturday, 3:30 pm. 936 Stockton Street. Contact 706-633-8789.

**Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast:** 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 am -10:00 am.

**Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Arts & Crafts:** Thursdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Learn something new!

**Dutch Flat United Methodist Church:** Worship Service, Sundays, 11:00 am. Fellowship lunch following service. Contact: 916-847-8477.

**Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting:** 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Golden Drift Museum, Main Street. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-210-5085.

**Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run:** Worship Service, Sundays, 10 am.

**Placer County Library Mobile Service:** See Page 5.

**Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta:** Worship Service, Sundays, 11 am. 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd, Alta. Contact 530-389-2168.

**Sierra First Baptist Church Bible Study:** Mondays, 8:30 am,

**Sierra First Baptist Church Community Lunch:** Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Free.

**Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry:** Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm.

**A message from the DFCC President**

By Laura Glassco

Yes, summer is here and we're so glad to have a wonderful community of friends and family to enjoy it with!

The past few months have been busy at the Dutch Flat Community Center. The Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Artisan Faire, Spring Fling, weekly exercise class, monthly Bingo Night, monthly potlucks and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Grad Night were enjoyed by all!

And to continue with our commitment to maintain and restore this wonderful building, the long white picket fence in front of the Center was repaired, sanded down, primed and painted. This should last at least ten years!

Many upcoming events are scheduled for July, August and September. Other articles will give you more details but just to highlight them here: Back by popular demand, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 5K Run, 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, the return of kids & older folks games in front of the Center after the parade, a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> of July Dinner Dance at the Center, Potlucks at the Pool and, of course, the White Elephant Sale. Whew! Lots to do in this community!

All these events and the maintenance of our 1898 building wouldn't be possible without your support. So, if you haven't sent in your Annual Membership to the DFCC, please consider doing so.

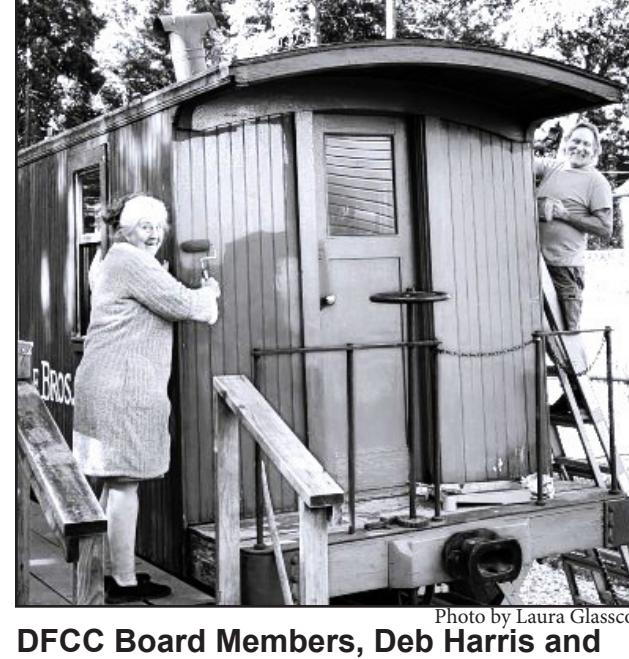


Photo by Laura Glassco  
**DFCC Board Members, Deb Harris and Mike Bell, painted the Towle Brothers Caboose**

**Here's what's coming up this Summer:**

July 4	8 am	5K run through Dutch Flat
July 4	10:30 am	Independence Day Parade
July 4	12 pm	Fun and Games on Stockton Street
July 4	5 pm	Dancing Under the Stars Dinner and Dance
July 17	6 pm	Potluck at the Dutch Flat Swimming Pool
August 2	5 - 10 pm	Annual Dutch Flat Pool Benefit BBQ
August 9	9 am-4 pm	Heritage Trail Day at the Golden Drift Museum
August 21	6 pm	Potluck at the Dutch Flat Swimming Pool
August 30	9 am-2 pm	White Elephant Sale
August 31	10 am-2 pm	White Elephant Sale
September 6	9 am - 2 pm	White Elephant Sale
September 7	10 am-2 pm	White Elephant Sale

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# Welcome Home - Angels in Fatigues

By Bill Gallaher

"Three-Twelve, this is Medic 2, we have four litters: two body bags, a head wound, and a belly. Three more dust-offs coming in hot."

"Let's go girls. We've got two KIAs, two severely wounded and more coming in. Y'all know what to do."

Vietnam war in the 1960s. Our best young men drafted out of high school, given 90 days of training and a rifle, then sent to kill and die. Draft dodgers moving to Canada. Deadly protests and riots. Nobody wanted to be a hero or the last to die.

In spite of all that, there was a group who voluntarily put themselves in harm's way by going to a combat zone--Nurses. This column is a continuation of the last edition's. I felt there was so much more to tell about these 6500 heroes, men and women! How did they get recruited? What were their stories? What about their patients?

Much of the recruitment was done through Operation Nightingale, a campaign which offered the Army Student Nurse Program (ASNP). The ASNP paid tuition, books, living expenses and uniforms. After passing state boards and basic training, nurses were commissioned into the Army or Navy. These heroes saved the lives of thousands of our soldiers in Vietnam. 10 nurses died. Who were these angels?

This column will honor these Angels in Fatigues by sharing their personal experiences and letters as the nurses talk about their former patients.

As you read their letters, note their feelings of pride and responsibility while serving their country. Many followed family members into the military.

Lt. Sylvia Holland served at the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai in 1968-1969. This is her emergency room experience:

"The busiest place was the emergency room. The dust-offs [medical evacuation helicopters] would call on the radio to let us know what they were bringing in, like, "Three-Twelve, this is Medic 2, we have four litters two body bags, a head wound, and a belly." That meant they had two KIA [Killed in Action] and two wounded. When the chopper landed, the corpsmen would go out and bring 'em in through the double doors. Either a nurse or a doctor would decide who needed help first. You did triage all the time. The GIs had priority, then the ARVN {southern Vietnamese soldiers}, then Vietnamese civilians, and finally the Viet Cong." (Sometimes the civilians were V.C.) "You went from one litter to the next. You'd look at wounds, check for vital signs, and just decide he's a go or he can wait. We had to move fast but we worked on trying to keep a calm voice and always had some kind of physical contact with the patients. A lot of times, as soon as you touched them you



could feel the tension drift away. It was a really important part of what we did. When you got a man who was too far gone, you didn't say anything and moved to the next litter. In the back of your mind you'd say, I hope he's dead when I get back.

"Pushes" were when we had days and days of causalities coming in. But we weren't busy every day. Sometimes it was quiet and we basically just sat around. Then you were like a sister, mother, grandmother, girlfriend. You had all kinds of roles. The men might start to talk about what they'd experienced and then you'd see this little protective shield come down. I don't know whether they didn't want to talk because they thought it would upset us or if it was just too painful for them. Mostly they'd talk about their girlfriends, or what they were going to do when they got home, what kind of car they were gonna buy. A lot of them talked about getting Dear John letters. Married men would ask you to write letters home. They had a genuine appreciation that American women were there...I've heard about sexual harassment in Vietnam, but that was never my experience. We were treated with the utmost regard. It was like being queen-for-a-day every day. You'd work a twelve-hour shift, shower, and then go to the Officers' Club at night. They'd be playing music and you'd be dancing and playing cards and having cheeseburgers. Then you'd go to bed, wake up, and go back to the insanity. One minute you're confronting death, and the next you're doing the Watusi [a dance]. After a while you couldn't separate one from the other. Near the end of my tour, I was crying a lot and couldn't sleep. I wasn't able to function so I took the chief of surgery aside and said, "I'm falling apart here." He prescribed Librium. I didn't drink and I didn't use drugs, but I did take Librium for about three months. It gave me a kind of false calm. It was like watching a movie..."

Lt. Eileen King worked with a pilot who had lost both of his legs and one of his arms. "It was obvious he was going to die. I don't remember his name; I feel so guilty about it," she said. Lt King took a short break and when she came back, she saw that one of his buddies had left a letter for him. "I read it to him. It was from his wife and had a photo

of his wife and child in it. She told him she loved him". Although King was tired from working a double shift, she said she didn't want to leave. She finally had to rest for a few hours before her next shift. The pilot died 20 minutes later. "For years, I wondered if I had just stayed, would he have lived longer? But I did my best," she said. Unlike many nurses, Lt King didn't have family members who served but felt a call to service. "There was a lot of criticism about America, what it stood for, especially about our military," she said. "I wanted to serve my country. I felt very protective of my nation and the military. I wanted to do my bit."

Lt. Edie Meeks volunteered because her brother joined the Marines. She said an encounter with a young Soldier from Kansas still haunts her. "I read a letter to him from his mom. She talked about his dad just coming in from pheasant hunting with his dog. At the end, she said, 'We're so proud of you, son.' Three days later, he died," she said.

Lt. Mary Breed joined after losing her brother and 2 friends in Vietnam. "I was closely affected by the war and they were desperate for nurses over in Vietnam." As a student nurse, Breed sought out an Army recruiter. "I said, 'I'm going to graduate next year as a registered nurse. How do I go to Vietnam?' Years later, Lt Breed was in civilian clothes shopping in Fort Dix, New Jersey, when a former soldier approached her "He said, 'You were my nurse in Vietnam,'" she said. "He told me I took off his leg. I took off so many legs. I couldn't remember each patient at that time and didn't want to tell him that. I was still grieving the loss of my father at the time. I didn't even hug him."

Captain Diane Evans became an Army nurse after both of her brothers joined the army. She felt "It's the responsibility of each one of us to serve our country in some way. It makes us a better country to know that we took an oath to protect the

Constitution, to protect our democracy. We should all be taking that oath and stepping up to do whatever we can in service through military service or some kind of service to our country. It makes us a stronger, more united country." She said 17 crew members from the 237th Dust-off medical evacuation helicopters died the year she was in Vietnam so she was thankful she made it back safely.

These stories were only a few that I could have included. My brother told me how important physical touch meant to him when he was in the evac hospital and eventually the state side VA hospital. Thank you nurses. Angels in Fatigues!!

Here's a tickler: The 312 eva hospital was unknowingly built over one of the largest Viet Cong tunnel systems of the Vietnam war. More on that adventure next issue.

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## Notes from a Small Rural School

By Shana Brown, Superintendent/  
Principal, Alta-Dutch Flat School District

Graduation is a bittersweet time at Alta-Dutch Flat School. We are so excited to witness all the next adventures for our graduates, but always a little mournful to watch them leave. This year is no exception as we celebrate our ten graduates who are leaving Alta-Dutch Flat School. Our graduation is a very special one and we strive to make it small and intimate. One of the strengths of our school is that we truly know our students, after all we've watched them grow for the last nine years.

But, once you are an Alta Bear, you are always an Alta Bear. This year, we welcomed back nine former students who graduated from Alta-Dutch Flat School as eighth graders, just four short years ago. They return in their graduation regalia, walk the halls, and receive high-fives from our current students.

Our retired kindergarten teacher, Dawn Sibley, recognized three students, Hadley McDonnell, Kloey Harris and Carter Harris, who have been here since kindergarten, with the Survivor Award: "So as you say goodbye



2025 ADFS 8th-Grade Graduates  
Front row (left to right): Abigail Wood, Hadley McDonnell, Kloey Harris  
Back row (left to right): Dawson Miles, Taylor Clark, Layton Johnston, Wyatt Levengood, Ryder Dubinsky, Carter Harris

favorite book in your backpack. You have the love and lessons of every teacher who's walked beside you. And you have each other—the friends who have known you since the beginning."

Congratulations to our valedictorian, Hadley McDonnell, who earned the highest GPA amongst all of her peers since fourth grade. Valedictorians write and present speeches at the graduation ceremony. Hadley did her best to reassure parents that they would all be okay once they leave Alta: "Today isn't just to acknowledge the past, it's an invitation to the future. A future that may be frightening or scary, but this school has done nothing if not prepared us for it. Going to Alta, not only do we know all our classmates, but we usually know their siblings, whether they go to school here or not, their parents, and probably their grandparents too. Speaking of parents, I know you're probably petrified about the idea of us going to high school. Instead of knowing everyone in the class, you might know a few familiar names brought up occasionally, and you won't be living next door or down the street from your child's teacher or principal. When we forget our lunch, or books, you won't be able to bring it to school in the time of three minutes. When you come to pick us up in the pick-up line, you won't recognize every car. So, when we're gone all day all the way in Colfax, your imagination will probably be going wild.

You'll be worrying about us hanging out with the wrong crowd or making bad choices. But know, you and our teachers have raised us to be the best versions of ourselves and make our own decisions."

Congratulations to our salutatorian, Abigail Wood, who earned the second highest grade point average amongst her peers. She, too, presented a speech at graduation. Abigail closes her speech with a thank you to her teachers: "As I get ready to go off to Colfax, I will carry all of the lessons that you have taught me and love you have given me. I will never forget the support you all gave me, and I hope my teachers at Colfax are as wonderful as you have all been."

Thank you to our community organizations and presenters who generously honored our graduates that evening:

Deb Harris of the Dutch Flat Community Center presented to Carter Harris

The Veterans of Foreign Wars presented to Ryder Dubinsky

Heidi Suter of the Rebekkah's Lodge presented to Abigail Wood

Chris Nave of the Oddfellows Lodge presented to Taylor Clark

Mike Mutto of the Friends of the Dutch Flat Pool presented to Hadley McDonnell

Kirstin Bivins of the Alta-Dutch Flat Parents' Club presented to Layton Johnston

We wish all our students well as they move on to the next adventure and remind them to never forget this place they call home.

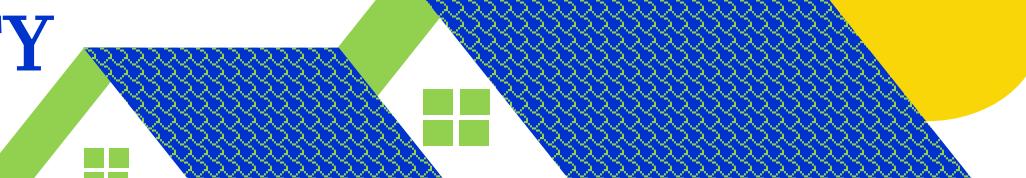


2021 ADFS 8th-Grade Graduates  
Front row (left to right): Gloria Bailey, Olivia Ledsome, Aidan Owen  
Back row (left to right): Adan Gonzalez, Hudson McDonnell, Katie Walker, Milas Ellison, Landon Holt, Chandler Harris

to this place where you've spent so many of your childhood days, know that you're not leaving everything behind. You're carrying it all with you—the lessons, the laughter, the friendships, and the spirit of a community that believes in you. You have the memories we made here, tucked in your heart like a

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## Movement in Dutch Flat

By Karen Charles

Movement is happening in our Community Center. Not only are things getting moving with fresh paint, repairs, and events, but the PEOPLE are getting their move- and groove-on **every Wednesday at 10am at the Community Center.**

Since April, we've been building community and mobility. Hosted by Karen Charles and Caitlin Randolph Joyce, it's an all-levels Movement and Mobility class, blending Yoga, fitness, functional movement, and Pilates.

The class might change with who is present and what our capabilities are. Let Caitlin know any mobility restrictions or preferences, and she will do her best to help out.

It's recommended to bring a yoga mat, towel, and any favorite fitness props. Like weights, bands, and yoga blocks. Have none of that? No worries! We do our best to accommodate everyone.



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1 class - \$10  
10 classes - \$80  
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Class will be upstairs. Bring your own yoga mat, towels, water, and fitness props.

## New Restaurant Opening in Alta

By Geri Lennon

Thirteen years ago, Angela and Howie Sellers ran a full-service restaurant here in Alta. Fabulous food was served, plus a Friday night "gathering" for dinner and music. Local musicians showed up to play live music and the night was always festive. When their restaurant closed down, it left a hollow place in dark silence.



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The Sellers' relocated to Verdi, Nevada and managed a bar and restaurant, with accompanying slot machines and video poker. During that next adventure, Howie earned the coveted prize of Best Hamburger in Verdi. People came from near and far for Howie's Burgers and he then acquired the title Best Hamburger in ALL of RENO. That's quite a feat, considering all the restaurants in Reno.

But they longed to return to the foothills and, most of all, come home to Alta. We now have an opportunity to welcome them back and have a cool place to gather again in Alta. The dream continues.

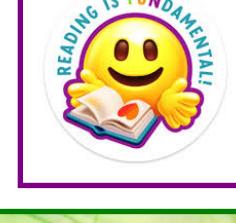
For now, every Thursday is declared Taco Thursday and is a fundraiser to help pay for the licenses and complete the renovation. Howie's Burgers will have a new face and a new chapter as "Hangry Howie's". They are hoping to finish details and renovations in a month or so. Stay tuned!

## Summer Story Time at the DFCC

By Natalie Chance



Last Wednesday, June 4th, the Dutch Flat Community Center opened its grand old doors for a trial "Summer Story-Time" for some of the community's youngest residents! The event included a snack, outdoor play, and picture book story-time, while the movement fitness class happened upstairs. The energy in the century-old building was light and spirited; not unlike the many other unique events that frequent the cherished community center. The heart of the volunteers that work at the events beat in its walls. Witnessing a chubby-fingered baby learning about the chair in front of him, or the heater grate on the floor, or poking at the other baby who just so happens to be the exact same age, doesn't get any better. Vibrant climbers enjoying the play structure, and silly stomping helpers carrying mats upstairs. Scattered yellow, purple, and pink wildflowers wave below the tall timbers that line Main Street as you leave. The mothers, fathers, artists, grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, and cousins, that call our close-knit mountain towns home, come here to connect, share, and remind us all how much fun it is to gather and love thy neighbor!



Gold Trail Chapter  
Roseville, CA

Your local Daughters of the American Revolution will be working at the Dutch Flat Public Cemetery this Fall 2025.

We will be raking leaves, adding a walking path, cleaning headstones, photographing, and digitizing all documentation and maps of the Cemetery. This data will be added to the *Golden Drift Historical Society Website and Find a Grave.*

If you would love to help, do not want your family headstone cleaned, or have any questions, please contact:

Darla Arndt at 408-209-9188 or email at [darndt63@gmail.com](mailto:darndt63@gmail.com)

DAR - Gold Trail Chapter



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## Lilies of the Field

By Mia Monroe

Young Ranger Mia (that's early 1980s) was assigned to find remnant patches of plants once common at Muir Woods and one I avidly sought was the leopard lily. I was aided by my friend, Jim Morley, who recalled seeing them in a few places and even took me to a famous growth of them in the Santa Cruz mountains as well as telling me of the beauteous ones near his family's Dutch Flat cabin (I've now seen his pictures from July Fourth 1977 of the lilies in full bloom in the cemetery!).

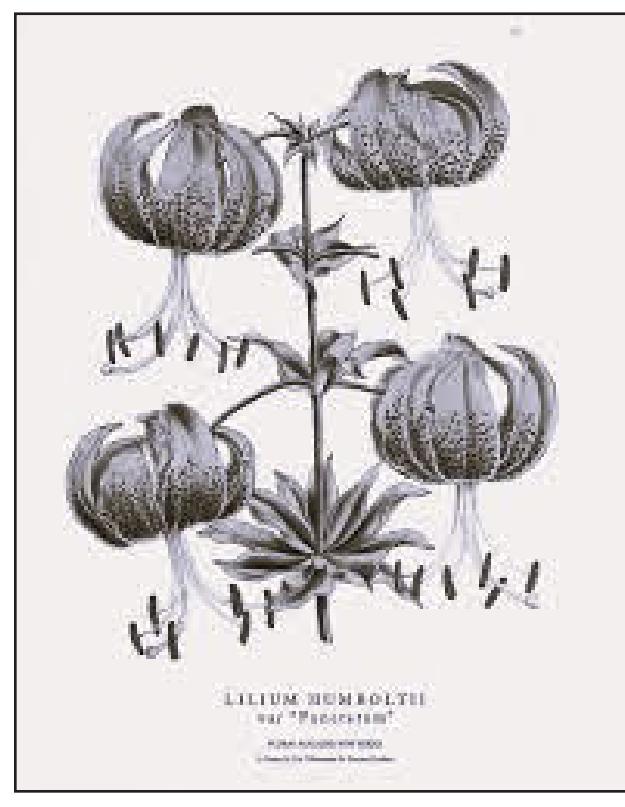
Now I am enjoying the Morley cabin and walks in the Dutch Flat cemetery.

All this time, I thought the cemetery leopard lilies would bloom, escaping the deer, managing to push up through the tangle of plants at the grave sites but then, a couple of years ago my cousin, Laura Waste, gifted me a book from her collection: *Wildflower Walks and Roads of the Sierra Gold Country* by Toni Fauver, AND it has historical notes by Helen Breck. I eagerly turned to Leopard Lily and it described perfectly the lush clumps along Drum Powerhouse Road and up at Onion Valley, but then it really clicked and got my attention when it continued, "A similar lily, *Lilium humboldtii*, **Humboldt lily** is found in dry shade. Jepson states that the Humboldt lily is declining. There used to be a huge colony in the Dutch Flat cemetery and now there is just one! How sad!"

Do you read this as a challenge?!? We (Caroline Harrod, Annette Purther, Jeanne Wilson and I) do! Here's a recent report from Caroline Harrod:

Thanks to your support, the Dutch Flat cemetery forest floor is healthier as evidenced by the return of the Humboldt Lily! After 2 years of careful eradication of the invasive blackberry plants, the Humboldt Lily and other natives are growing, blooming and flowering! Few people know that invasive plant species can inhibit the native plants from growing. Also, deer love to eat these plants.

Our video below shows community volunteers donating fence materials and working together to protect the lilies from



hungry deer. Your much needed donations are appreciated and all the money goes directly to the restoration and maintenance project. Your support is essential to maintain the Dutch Flat cemetery.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVFdvx4gXk>

**Humboldt lily** is also a wonderful and deserved tribute to one of the greatest explorers and scientists of any age: Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), whose name graces four counties, thirteen towns, a river, parks, bays, lakes, mountains, an ocean current AND a lily. Among his most revolutionary ideas was that nature is a complex and interconnected global force that exists for all life forms. Another looked closely at the similarities between climate and vegetation zones on different continents, as well as elevations.

Besides us, drawn by the striking tall plant with multiple large, fragrant and pendulous orange flowers of the **Humboldt lily** are the pollinators: primarily large butterflies, such as swallowtails and monarchs!

PS: Leopard lilies again thrive at Muir Woods! May it be so for the **Humboldt lily**!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/dutch-flat-cemetery-restoration-project>

## White Elephant Sale

By Shelley Willsmore

Though we are in the midst of the Summer of '25, and all good things will come to an end, for Dutch Flat, that means (can you hear the trumpeting?) The White Elephant Sale! This year Labor Day is on the first of September meaning the sale will take place the last two days of August and will continue the following weekend.



This event is dependent on donations of nice, salable items and many volunteer hours to display these treasures. Donations and work days will be every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 AM to noon beginning on Saturday July 26th. The last day we will accept donations is Saturday August 23rd. We are in need of many hands to work these days, as well as the days of the sale. If you are willing and able to help, please call the center at 530-389-8310 to let us know. Anyone is welcome to join us on any of the donation/work days, but it is helpful for the team leaders to be able to know who will be available to help and when.

The Center is grateful for all the volunteers and donations, and for the shoppers. The White Elephant Sale is an event where everyone is welcome to participate.



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## More Gold Rush Trivia

By Debby McClatchy

By 1840, the Russians had killed most of the otters near Fort Ross and decided to leave California as now unprofitable. They offered the land, buildings, weapons, livestock, and equipment to the English, then to the Mexicans, and finally to John Sutter.

If the Russians had stayed until 1848 and the discovery of gold, they would have been in the perfect location to access the richest gold fields. If Mexico had bought the Fort, the canons and horses might have helped them win the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, keeping California as theirs. If England and their Hudson Bay Company had purchased Fort Ross, they might have been too entrenched by 1850 for California to easily become a state. Even though Sutter didn't have the wherewithal to buy the Fort, he did so anyway, never paying off the loans. But he probably helped to save the state.

The idea of a sawmill on the American River at Coloma was not original to John Sutter. It is assumed that James Marshall went to build one at Sutter's insistence, but it was the other way around. Not wanting to spend his life as a carpenter, working for others, Marshall convinced Sutter to let him explore the mountainous river area to find a suitable spot. Solitary, taciturn, and cantankerous, Marshall was determined to become a wealthy man. The year before, he had quit working for Sutter to start a cattle ranch.

Unfortunately, he lost everything when he left to fight in the Mexican War.

Rustlers stole it all. To go back to work for Sutter must have rankled. Sutter's decision to acquiesce was helped by the arrival of new labor, skilled and hardworking,

ready to make salable objects from all that lumber. On August 25, 1847, a contingent of the Mormon Battalion, sent to California by Brigham Young to fight in the Mexican War, arrived at Sutter's Fort. They had been instructed to remain in California for the winter to work and earn money for the Church. Sutter saw a way to possibly get out of debt and encouraged Marshall in his search for a good location.

That famous nugget wasn't just waiting in the river. Marshall had to blast open the tail-race, to make his flutter water wheel turn correctly, and this washed down debris, including the gold.

Sutter sent the Mormons to Coloma to build the mill. They finished their contract, then quit to a man to begin mining.

Those already resident in California in 1848 fared better in the gold fields than those who arrived in 1849. This is not a surprise. While most just got by, a few really achieved riches. Particularly in the spring, before the price of commodities shot up, fueled by huge freight costs and general greed. Half of the miners were taking out about an ounce of gold per day and spent the same to eat and live. One quarter, plagued

by poor prospects, worked for a wage. The remaining quarter did better; 20% making an actual profit, and 5% becoming wealthy. Those selling goods to the miners did best, taking at least a 300% profit.

By the end of 1848 the eight to ten thousand miners in California had taken out about ten million dollars' worth of gold. Two million dollars were shipped east to families, two million paid for food and supplies, one million spent on building towns, 2.5 million invested in real estate, and 2.5 million saved or spent on luxuries.

Most "49ers" spent the majority of 1849 in transit to California, arriving in August and September. By the end of that year there were 100,000 new residents. About 10% were from South America, another 10% from Mexico, mostly from the border provenance of Sonora. Another 40% came overland, almost all Americans who had been farmers and mechanics, used to hard labor and times. The last 40% came by sea, about half American and half from overseas. These were mostly city men.

Only about half of the arrivals went up into the mines. The rest settled in towns and on farms, ready to take advantage of miners' needs. The larger population took out twice as much gold as those in 1848.

Some California miners, finding no luck in the Sierras, headed further afield. In 1873, twenty-three miners left the Salt Lake area to prospect in the rugged San Juan Mountains, guided by the experienced mountain man, Alfred Parker. Warned by local Indians of heavy snows ahead, most decided to remain, but five miners left with Parker. One by one, they died on the way, and, one by one, they were eaten by the remaining men, until only Parker survived.

When Parker arrived back in town, loaded down with the other's possessions, the Indian Agent, General Charles Adams, sentenced him to forty years hard labor, stating, "Parker, you Republican son of a such and such, there were only five Democrats in Hinsdale County, and you ate them all!"

John C. Fremont is said to have made his own luck through audacious and timely expeditions to explore the West for possible means of success and wealth.

He seemed to luck out, however, when, just before his fourth expedition, he gave Thomas Larkin, a friend and longtime California resident, \$3000 to buy Fremont a farm near the ocean in Monterey. Instead, Larkin bought him an inaccessible, wild, and cold tract high in the Sierras, and purchased the Monterey property for himself. Fremont was furious until he found the real Mother Lode on the Sierra land. Within a year he was the single largest owner of gold in the state, a millionaire, returning East as California's senator.

## Ashana Clark

1952-2024



We are writing to share some very sad news. Longtime Dutch Flat resident Toby Clark lost the love of his life, Ashana, on November 15, 2024, after only 72 birthdays.

Ashana enjoyed her work as a makeup artist in New York, where she worked for Fox TV. She collaborated with many celebrities, including Elizabeth Taylor, Robert Wagner, and Natalie Wood, to name a few.

Toby and Ashana loved traveling to Europe and spending their summers in Dutch Flat.

Anyone wishing to honor her memory may donate to the Dutch Flat Community Center.

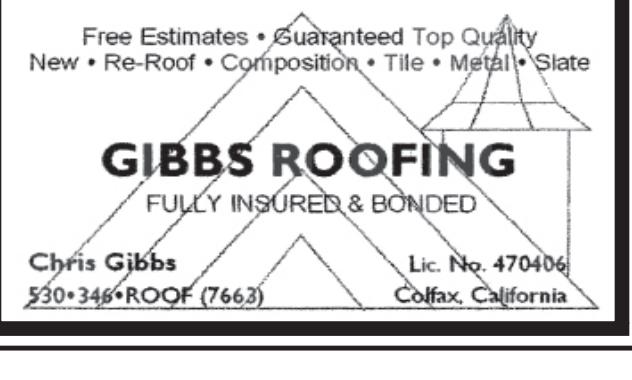
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